

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2005. Claims 1 to 40 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1 and 33 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for alleged indefiniteness. This rejection has been attended to by amendment above.

Claims 1, 3, 34 to 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over 6,240,456 (Teng) in view of U.S. Patent 6,727,998 (Tomiyasu); Claim 2 was rejected over Teng and Tomiyasu and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,757,280 (Wilson); Claims 16 to 21 and 32 were rejected over Teng and Tomiyasu and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,157,950 (Krishnan); Claims 4 to 10, 15, 24, 26, 28, 33, 38 and 40 were rejected over Teng and Tomiyasu and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,611,863 (Banginwar); Claims 22, 23, 25 and 29 to 31 were rejected over Teng, Tomiyasu and Banginwar and further in view of Krishnan; Claims 11 to 14 were rejected over Teng, Tomiyasu and Banginwar and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,020,973 (Levine); and Claim 27 was rejected over Teng, Tomiyasu and Banginwar and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,742,039 (Remer). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns mimicking a network device. To do so, a computing device having first and second network interface cards, receives an incoming message from a client network device addressed to a target network device residing on a

local network and determines if an application module residing in the computing device is configured to process a function as requested by the incoming message. If so, the incoming message is redirected to the application module. If not, the incoming message is passed through to the target network device.

Turning now to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for mimicking network devices, the method being performed in a computing device having first and second network interface cards, the first network interface card connecting the computing device to an external network and the second network interface card connecting the computing device to a local network. The method includes receiving an incoming message from a client network device residing on the external network, the incoming message being addressed to a target network device residing on the local network, and determining if an application module residing in the computing device is configured to process a functionality requested by the incoming message. In the case that the application module is configured to process the functionality, the incoming message is redirected to the application module. The incoming message is passed through the local network to the target network device residing on the local network in the case that the application module is not configured to process the functionality.

In contrast, Teng discloses a networking system in which network server 49 (of FIG. 1) receives incoming data from a network client that is directed to a logical endpoint, such as printer 50 (of FIG. 1) associated with the network server. Network server 49 then routes the incoming data to the logical endpoint. The networking system may further include optional installable components 126 (of FIG. 5) to which

network server 49 may route incoming data. Installable components 126 may be utilized to respond to specialized informational requests generated by the network client. More specifically, the installable components 126 are used to supplement server scripting component 72 (of FIG. 5) and similarly function to poll the system spooler 74 (of FIG. 5) and/or the printer 50 in response to requests issued by the network client as a function of the specified URL address. (Col. 8, line 63 to col. 9, line 5). However, nowhere does Teng disclose determining if an application module residing in a computing device is configured to process a functionality requested by an incoming message. Furthermore, as Teng fails to disclose determining the configuration of an application module based on a functionality requested by the incoming message, Teng cannot disclose any further actions taken based on such a determination. Specifically, Teng cannot disclose that, in the case that the application module is configured to process the functionality, the incoming message is redirected to the application module and that the incoming message is passed through the local network to the target network device residing on the local network in the case that the application module is not configured to process the functionality.

Furthermore, Tomiyasu discloses a printing system for printing an image based on print data, including: a communication line; a first printer system connected to the communication line, the first printer system transmitting the print data by electronic mail through the communication line; and a second printer system connected to the communication line, the second printer system receiving the electronic mail via the communication line, the second printer system performing a printing operation based on the print data contained in the received electronic mail. (Col. 1, lines 54 to 65). However,

nothing in Tomiyasu supplies which is missing from Teng, namely, determining if an application module residing in a computing device is configured to process a functionality requested by an incoming message and taking further actions taken based on such a determination. Specifically, Tomiyasu does not disclose that, in the case that the application module is configured to process the functionality, the incoming message is redirected to the application module and that the incoming message is passed through the local network to the target network device residing on the local network in the case that the application module is not configured to process the functionality.

As neither Teng nor Tomiyasu, neither alone nor in combination, neither disclose nor suggest the feature of determining if an application module residing in a computing device is configured to process a functionality requested by an incoming message and, in the case that the application module is configured to process the functionality, the incoming message is redirected to the application module and further that the incoming message is passed through the local network to the target network device residing on the local network in the case that the application module is not configured to process the functionality, Applicants submit that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 33 is directed to a method for mimicking network devices, the method being performed in a computing device having first and second network interface cards, the first network interface card connecting the computing device to an external network and the second network interface card connecting the computing device to a local network. The method includes the steps of discovering a plurality of target network

printers on the local network by detecting messages on the local network from each of the plurality of target network printers; creating a rule in a rules table for each of the discovered target network printers, each rule containing the IP address of the corresponding target network printer and indicating whether an application module in the computing device is configured to perform a function on behalf of the corresponding target network printer. The method further includes receiving an incoming message from a client network device residing on the external network, the incoming message being addressed to an IP address of a designated one of the plurality of target network printers; determining, based on the rule corresponding to the designated target network printer, if the incoming message requests a functionality that the application module is configured to perform; redirecting, in the case that the incoming message requests a functionality that the application module is configured to perform, the incoming message to the application module which performs the requested functionality in response to the incoming message; and passing, in the case that the incoming message does not request a functionality that the application module is configured to perform, the incoming message through the local network to the designated target network printer.

As discussed above, neither Teng and Tomiyasu, neither alone nor in combination, neither disclose nor suggest the feature of determining if an application module residing in a computing device is configured to process a functionality requested by an incoming message and, in the case that the application module is configured to process a functionality, the incoming message is redirected to the application module and further that the incoming message is passed through the local network to the target network

device residing on the local network in the case that the application module is not configured to process the functionality. Furthermore, Banginwar is concerned with automatically identifying and assigning devices to device proxies in a policy based network management system but fails to disclose that which is missing from both Teng and Tomiyasu. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 33 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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